

RIDE Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Programs Approval Process



The Board of Regents voted to approve the Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program Standards for Preschool and Kindergarten Programs on January 7, 2010. The new process for receiving approval is outlined below.

Application

The process for applying for RIDE Approval begins with the submission of a complete application. The new application can be downloaded at www.ride.ri.gov. Click on the Early Childhood link. It is recommended that programs download and complete the self-assessment to determine their readiness for RIDE approval. This self-assessment is not a required application component. A complete Application includes:

- Initial Application
- Initial Application Checklist and all related documents, including Staff Credentials Packets

Facilities Site Visit

Once a program's application has been reviewed and determined to meet the applicable standards, a Facilities Site Visit will be scheduled. The purpose of this visit is to ensure compliance with the components in Standard One: Physical Facilities and Standard Two: Health and Safety.

Initial Program Visit

Once the Facilities Site Visit has been completed and compliance with the applicable standards has been determined, an Initial Program Visit will be conducted. This visit will include an on-site document review, program administrator interview, and an ECERS evaluation. An ECERS score of 5.0 or greater is required for RIDE Approval. Any item scored below a 3 will require an approved improvement plan.

Final Program Visit

The Final Program Visit will consist of interviews with teachers and a CLASS Observation. CLASS Observation scores will not be used to determine whether or not a program should be approved. Instead, the program will be expected to incorporate professional development activities related to CLASS dimensions into their annual professional development plan. Programs that have demonstrated compliance with all standards will be issued Approval as a Comprehensive Early Childhood Education Program.

Visit the Early Childhood section of the RIDE website (www.ride.ri.gov) for application information, related guidance documents, and more information on ECERS and CLASS.